

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2018

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman

House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense
H-405 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky
Ranking Member

House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Visclosky:

Thank you for your continued, bipartisan support of the Procurement Technical Assistance Program (PTAP). The PTAP, which is funded and administered through the Defense Logistics Agency Office of Small Business Programs, received \$38.458 million in the House Passed Version of the FY2018 Department of Defense Appropriations Act. As you know, we do not yet have the final numbers for FY2018 but thank you in advance for your support of the program. Given the program's demonstrated success in providing individualized, intensive assistance to small businesses across the nation, we respectfully request your support for the PTAP by providing at least funding of \$42.3 million in the FY2019 Defense Appropriations Bill and Report. This additional funding will allow PTACs to reach into more counties than the current footprint.

Ninety-eight Procurement Technical Assistance Centers and more than 300 local offices cover all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the territories of Puerto Rico and Guam provide the critical training and in-depth, individualized counseling small businesses need to compete and succeed in defense and other government contracting markets. By increasing the number of suppliers for DoD and other federal agencies, PTACs generate greater competition which provides higher quality goods and services at a lower cost to the taxpayer.

The PTAP works. In 2016, PTACs worked with over 40,000 active clients and held approximately 4,300 events – generating over 85,000 government contracts worth more than \$16 billion. This is a return of \$471 for every dollar invested in the program.

The PTAP is authorized under 10 USC 2412 Chapter 142. The recently-enacted National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 conference report to accompany H.R. 2810 also includes \$38.458 million for the PTAP.

PTACs help prime contractors and government agencies identify small business suppliers and subcontractors with the capabilities necessary for their project or program. PTACs also help federal agencies quickly locate qualified vendors to meet unusual procurement requirements – such as local disaster response and reconstruction needs. By increasing the number of suppliers for DoD and other federal agencies, PTACs generate greater competition, providing higher quality goods and services at a lower cost to the taxpayer. It is our opinion that with an increase proposed in the procurement part of the Department of Defense budget these vital services will be under even more demand. A recent DOD report agrees with us. The recent Section 809 panel which was tasked by Congress to find ways to streamline the defense acquisition process, specifically mentioned PTAP and encouraged greater resources to be provided for their work. The panel recommends doubling the PTAP budget to no less than \$68 million, removing the requirement for cost share, and more interaction between DoD and PTACs with strong focus on using PTACs to find and help small innovative companies meet DoD's needs for new technology.

Given the value of the PTAP to our nation's small businesses and the support it provides the warfighter, we respectfully urge your continued support by providing \$42.3 million for the Procurement Technical Assistance Program.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and your ongoing commitment to our men and women in uniform.

Sincerely,

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Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joe Courtney', with a stylized 'J' and a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Rob Bishop
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress




Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Scott Peters
Member of Congress



Denny Heck
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



John K. Delaney
Member of Congress



Susan Davis
Member of Congress



Shelia Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Sander Levin
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



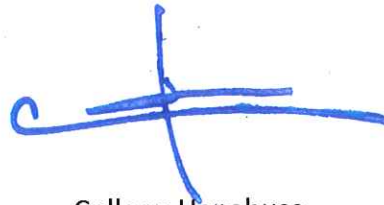
James R. Langevin
Member of Congress



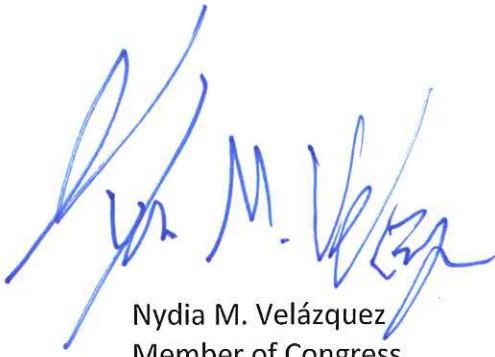
Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress



Timothy J. Walz
Member of Congress



Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress

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Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tony Cárdenas". The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first name being the most prominent.

Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elise M. Stefanik". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Elise" and middle initial "M." written in a more connected style, and the last name "Stefanik" written in a slightly more upright but still cursive script.

Elise Stefanik

Member of Congress